

**WHAT IS CLAIMED IS:**

1. A method of ~~fabricating~~ continuously connected fastener stock, said method comprising the steps of:

(a) providing a rotating molding wheel, said rotating molding wheel being provided with a peripheral impression comprising a pair of peripherally-extending side members interconnected by a plurality of cross-links;

(b) extruding molten plastic into the peripheral impression of said rotating molding wheel, with a layer of controlled film overlying the peripheral impression;

(c) allowing the molten plastic to solidify;

(d) using a knife in substantially elliptical contact with the peripheral impression to skive excess plastic from the rotating molding wheel, said knife having a bottom provided with a first cut-out portion aligned with one of said peripherally-extending side members so as to augment the transverse cross-sectional size thereof; and

(e) removing the continuously connected fastener stock thus formed from the rotating molding wheel.

2. The method as claimed in claim 1 wherein said peripheral impression is formed around the entire periphery of said rotating molding wheel.

3. The method as claimed in claim 2 wherein said bottom of said knife is further provided with a second cut-out portion aligned with the other of said peripherally-extending side members so as to augment the transverse cross-sectional size thereof.

4. The method as claimed in claim 3 wherein each of said peripherally-extending side members of said peripheral impression is generally uniform and semi-elliptical in transverse cross-

section and wherein each of said cross-links of said peripheral impression is generally semi-circular in transverse cross-section.

5. The method as claimed in claim 4 wherein each of said first and second cut-out portions is complementarily shaped relative to its respective peripherally-extending side member of said peripheral impression so that each cross-link of the continuously connected fastener stock symmetrically bisects the side members of the continuously connected fastener stock.

6. The method as claimed in claim 3, wherein each of said peripherally-extending side members of said peripheral impression is generally rectangular in transverse cross-section and wherein each of said cross-links of said peripheral impression is generally semi-circular in transverse cross-section.

7. The method as claimed in claim 6 wherein each of said first and second cut-out portions is complementarily shaped relative to its respective peripherally-extending side member of said peripheral impression so that each cross-link of the continuously connected fastener stock symmetrically bisects the side members of the continuously connected fastener stock.

8. The method as claimed in claim 3 wherein each of said peripherally-extending side members of said peripheral impression is generally semi-circular in transverse cross-section and wherein each of said cross-links of said peripheral impression is generally semi-circular in transverse cross-section.

9. The method as claimed in claim 8 wherein each of said first and second cut-out portions is generally semi-circular in cross-section.

10. The method as claimed in claim 9 wherein each of said first and second cut-out portions and each of said peripherally-extending side members of said peripheral impression are sized and

shaped so that each cross-link of the continuously connected fastener stock asymmetrically bisects the side members of the continuously connected fastener stock.

11. A length of continuously connected fastener stock fabricated according to the method of claim 1.

12. A length of continuously connected fastener stock fabricated according to the method of claim 4.

13. A length of continuously connected fastener stock fabricated according to the method of claim 5.

14. A length of continuously connected fastener stock fabricated according to the method of claim 6.

15. A length of continuously connected fastener stock fabricated according to the method of claim 7.

16. A length of continuously connected fastener stock fabricated according to the method of claim 8.

17. A length of continuously connected fastener stock fabricated according to the method of claim 9.

18. A length of continuously connected fastener stock fabricated according to the method of claim 10.

19. A length of continuously connected fastener stock comprising:

(a) first and second side members; and

(b) a plurality of cross-links interconnecting said first and second side members, each of said cross-links having a flat surface and an arcuate surface;

(c) wherein said first side member is shaped to extend transversely beyond said flat surface.

20. The length of continuously connected fastener stock as claimed in claim 19 wherein said first side member is generally elliptical in transverse cross-section.

21. The length of continuously connected fastener stock as claimed in claim 20 wherein each of said cross-links is generally semi-circular in transverse cross-section.

22. The length of continuously connected fastener stock as claimed in claim 21 wherein said second side member is shaped to extend transversely beyond said flat surface.

23. The length of continuously connected fastener stock as claimed in claim 22 wherein said second side member is generally elliptical in transverse cross-section.

24. The length of continuously connected fastener stock as claimed in claim 23 wherein said first and second side members are substantially identical in size and shape.

25. The length of continuously connected fastener stock as claimed in claim 20 wherein each of said cross-links symmetrically bisects said first side member transversely.

26. The length of continuously connected fastener stock as claimed in claim 19 wherein said first side member is generally rectangular in transverse cross-section.

27. The length of continuously connected fastener stock as claimed in claim 26 wherein each of said cross-links is generally semi-circular in transverse cross-section.

28. The length of continuously connected fastener stock as claimed in claim 27 wherein said second side member is shaped to extend transversely beyond said flat surface.

29. The length of continuously connected fastener stock as claimed in claim 28 wherein said second side member is generally rectangular in transverse cross-section.

30. The length of continuously connected fastener stock as claimed in claim 19 wherein said first side member is generally circular in transverse cross-section.

31. The length of continuously connected fastener stock as claimed in claim 30 wherein said first side member is generally circular with at least one flattened surface in transverse cross-section.

32. The length of continuously connected fastener stock as claimed in claim 30 wherein said first side member is generally circular with a pair of flattened surfaces in transverse cross-section.

33. The length of continuously connected fastener stock as claimed in claim 30 wherein each of said cross-links is generally semi-circular in transverse cross-section.

34. The length of continuously connected fastener stock as claimed in claim 33 wherein said second side member is shaped to extend transversely beyond said flat surface.

35. The length of continuously connected fastener stock as claimed in claim 34 wherein said second side member is generally circular in transverse cross-section.

36. The length of continuously connected fastener stock as claimed in claim 35 wherein said first and second side members are substantially identical in size and shape.

37. The length of continuously connected fastener stock as claimed in claim 36 wherein each of said cross-links asymmetrically bisects said first side member transversely.

38. A length of continuously connected fastener stock comprising:

(a) first and second side members; and

(b) a plurality of cross-links interconnecting said first and second side members, each of said cross-links having a flat surface;

(c) wherein said first side member is shaped to extend transversely beyond said flat surface with an arcuate surface.

39. The length of continuously connected fastener stock as claimed in claim 38 wherein said first side member is generally elliptically shaped in transverse cross-section.

40. The length of continuously connected fastener stock as claimed in claim 39 wherein said first side member is generally circularly shaped in transverse cross-section.

41. The length of continuously connected fastener stock as claimed in claim 40 wherein said first side member is generally circularly shaped with at least one flattened surface in transverse cross-section.

42. The length of continuously connected fastener stock as claimed in claim 41 wherein said first side member is generally circularly shaped with a pair of flattened surfaces in transverse cross-section.

43. A length of continuously connected fastener stock comprising:

(a) first and second side members; and

(b) a plurality of cross-links interconnecting said first and second side members, each of said plurality of cross-links asymmetrically bisecting said first and second side members.

44. The length of continuously connected fastener stock as claimed in claim 43 wherein said first side member is generally circular in transverse cross-section.

45. The length of continuously connected fastener stock as claimed in claim 44 wherein said first side member is generally circular with at least one flattened surface in transverse cross-section.

46. The length of continuously connected fastener stock as claimed in claim 45 wherein said first side member is generally circular with a pair of flattened surfaces in transverse cross-section.

47. The length of continuously connected fastener stock as claimed in claim 44 wherein each of said cross-links lies flush on one side with said first and second side members.

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(48) A plastic staple comprising:

- (a) a pair of cross-bars, and
- (b) a cross-link interconnecting said cross-bars,
- (c) at least one of said cross-bars having a length of about 0.18 inches.

49. The plastic staple as claimed in claim 48 wherein each of said cross-bars is generally circular in transverse cross-section and wherein said cross-link has a flat side and an arcuate side.

50. The plastic staple as claimed in claim 49 wherein said cross-link asymmetrically bisects said pair of cross-bars.

(51) A plastic staple comprising:

- (a) a pair of cross-bars, and
- (b) a cross-link interconnecting said cross-bars,
- (c) said cross-bars being circular in cross-section and having a cross sectional diameter of about 0.032 inches.

(52) A plastic staple comprising:

- (a) a pair of cross-bars, and
- (b) a cross-link interconnecting said cross-bars,
- (c) said cross-bars being generally circular in cross-section and said cross-link having a flat side and an arcuate side.

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tag pin gun

(53) A needle for use in dispensing plastic fasteners comprising a stem having a cross-sectional thickness of about 0.013-0 inches and a base having an inside diameter of about 0.032 inches.